LINGUISTICS RESEARCH DAY(S) 2006
DEPARTMENT OF LIBERAL ARTS, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

> **Room 315, Department of Liberal Arts, School**
> **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION**
> **11–12 December 2006**

Monday 11 December
AFTERNOON

1.   **PHONOLOGY, GRAMMAR AND EDUCATION**

3:30 – 4:00   **Tone in genitive constructions in Kalaḅarị-Ịjọ**
Otelemate Harry, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Mona

4:00 – 4:30   **The Reference of Bare Nouns in Berbice Dutch**
Silvia Kouwenberg, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Mona

4:30 – 5:00   **Conflict Talk and Its Implications for Social (Dis)Integration in Jamaica**
Kathryn Shields Brodber, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Mona

5:00 – 5:30   **Robing the Emperor:**
Narratives of the Moral Dilemma of Vernacular Literacy in the Caribbean
Martha Isaac, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Cave Hill

5:30 – 6:00   **Bilingual Education**
Hubert Devonish, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Mona

Tuesday 12 December
MORNING

2.   **ASPECTS OF SYNTAX**

9:00 – 10:00   **Habitual or Modal: What does *dʌz* do in Trinidadian Creole English?**
Dwane Garcia, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine
(Postgraduate Seminar Presentation)

10:00 – 10:30   **Non-emphatic vs. emphatic morphemes in Tobagonian Grammar**
Winford James, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine

10:30 – 11:00   **'I go smoke jus now': The Child Linguist as a Social Being**
Valerie Youssef, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine

11:00 – 11:15   **Break**

3.   **LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION**

11:15 – 11:45   **The Real Truth: West Indian Teachers' Proficiency in English**
Stacey Denny, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Cave Hill

11:45 – 12:15   **Coming in from the Cold/Sun: EFL at UWI, St. Augustine**
Amina Ibrahim-Ali and Vanessa Williams, FHE, UWI, St. Augustine

12:15 – 1:00   **Lunch**
AFTERNOON

4.   **DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

1:00 – 2:00   **"It Divide Up in Little Worlds": Dialogue and Discourse Analysis of Selected**
Works by Samuel Selvon
Karen Mah-Chamberlain, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine
(Guest Presenter from Literatures in English – Postgraduate Seminar Presentation)

2:00 – 2:30   **Ado Pull Cow Rope: The Use of Prefabricated Language in the Writing of**
Barbadian Journalists
Korah Belgrave Weekes, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, Cave Hill

2:30 – 3:00   **Ragga Soca**
Glenda-Alicia Leung, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine

3:00 – 3:30   **The Dougla in Calypso Discourse: "Jahaaji Blues" reprimands "Jahaaji Bhai"**
Ferne Regis, Faculty of Humanities & Education, UWI, St. Augustine

3:30 – 4:30   **COMS 3099 – Language and Communication Panel**
(Guest Presenters from Communication Studies – Undergraduate Seminar
Presentations)

ABSTRACTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Korah Belgrave Weekes
Ado Pull Cow Rope: The Use of Prefabricated Language in the Writing of Barbadian Journalists

Session 4

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Stacey Denny
The Real Truth: West Indian Teachers' Proficiency in English

Session 3

This project introduces the reader to twenty-one (21) teachers. All of them teach the English language and are enrolled as students in some degree programme at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. The study sought to determine whether or not these teachers are highly proficient in writing the language which they teach. This was determined by analysing their writing for orthographic, morphological, lexico-semantic, structural and grammatical errors. The findings led me to conclude that most of these teachers are not proficient writers of the English language, and so the implications are obvious. Yet, before these teachers are criticised, there are some arousing, and perhaps, fearful facts, that all in the West Indian education sector need to face.

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Hubert Devonish
Bilingual Education

Session 1

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Dwane Garcia
Habitual or Modal: What does *dʌz* do in Trinidadian Creole English?

Session 2

This paper admittedly takes a position contrary to that found in the literature on Trinidadian Creole English (TCE) *dʌz*. TCE *dʌz*, among a group of male secondary school students, is a modal which marks a situation as characteristic of the subject of an utterance. A brief review is made of views on *dʌz* in Atlantic English creoles and in TCE. The view of *dʌz* as a habitual marker is questioned on several grounds: the use of *dʌz* when habitual meaning cannot be interpreted; the use of the negative form of *dʌz* (TCE do) also when habituality cannot be interpreted; and the regular and productive expression of habitual meaning by other means. The view of *dʌz* as a generic marker is also considered and questioned on the basis that generic meanings are also regularly expressed by other productive means. Finally, *dʌz* is placed within a theory of the verb which makes verb marking a function of physical space.

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Otelemate Harry
Tone in genitive constructions in Kalaḅarị-Ịjọ

Session 1

Kalaḅarị-Ịjọ (Kalaḅarị), a Niger-Congo language, spoken in Nigeria, is relatively under-studied. Kalaḅarị is a two-level tone language, (H)igh, (L)ow, respectively. In addition, there is a downstep phoneme. In this paper, I will show that distinctions between three types of genitive constructions in Kalaḅarị are encoded in tone and vestigial lexical morphology, although Kalaḅarị has been noted to have no lexical morphology. These two interact to provide the basis for explaining the three types of genitive constructions proposed in Jenewari (1977: 316). Most importantly, from an historical perspective, Africanists propose H-tone genitive (associative) marker only for Niger-Congo Languages. Kalabari-Ijo provides new evidence that besides the H-tone, there exist other tone melodies which distinguish various types of genitive constructions. Consider some genitive constructions below:

	Underlying Tone Melody		**Surface Tone Pattern**
a.	Dégémà na fúḅárá	>	Dégémà nà fùḅàrà
	HL Ø H		H H L L L **HL**
	Degema of forehead/luck'		'forehead/luck of Degema'
b.	Dégémà ḅẹ fúḅárá		Dégémà ḅẹ̀ fùḅàrà
	HL Ø H		H H L L L **L L**
	Degema at forehead/luck'		'forehead/luck at Degema'
c.	á yìngì	>	á yíngí
	H L		H **HH**
	her mother		'her mother'
d.	á fúḅárá	>	á fúḅárā
	H H		H H **H ! H**
	Her forehead/luck		'her forehead'

Compare the underlying tones of the items to their corresponding surface tones. A general observation is that in a genitive phrase, the tone of the initial item is maintained, while the following item undergoes tone change. In (b) and (c), it appears that the last linked tone of the initial item spreads onto the following items. However, in (a) and (d), we cannot account for the tone change via spreading only, rather we have to assume tone spread and tone insertion, HL and HLH, respectively. What triggers tone spread and tone insertion? Kalaḅarị shows that tonal rules sometimes obligatorily require morphological information in their specification. The scope of this paper is limited to the presentation of descriptively adequate account of these tonally distinct classes of genitives. The theoretical implications of issues raised will be addressed elsewhere.

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Amina Ibrahim-Ali and Vanessa Williams
Coming in from the Cold/Sun: EFL at UWI, St. Augustine

Session 3

It is not only the English who can teach English. This growing awareness is partly responsible for the choice of the Caribbean as a destination for English Language learning. Given the abundance of choices, why do some opt to study English at the university? The EFL university classroom, not unlike EFL classrooms across the region, receives students of various nationalities- not immigrant students, but visiting ones – who arrive as if to purchase a commodity after which they return to jobsites or universities which stipulate that they carry back some level of English Language proficiency. Course design therefore, is not guided by State policy as in the immigrant situation where learners are eventually expected to fully participate in the mainstream classroom; but instead, is needs-specific. *How the university stands apart from the cadre of EFL teaching institutions, is the primary point of extrapolation of the current article.* The clientele in the university language-learning situation comprises highly motivated adults who it is argued, learn a foreign language "imperfectly." The benefit of learning within a campus, however, lies with its opportunities for interaction within a microcosm of the general society. Coupled with this facility is the counterbalance of easy accessibility to those who speak the students' native language, which can potentially lower the affective filter and may enhance the language-learning process.

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Martha Isaac
Robing the Emperor: Narratives of the Moral Dilemma of Vernacular Literacy in the Caribbean

Session 1

Vernacular literacy has been presented as a critical solution for a wide array of social, political and educational problems in countries where official and indigenous languages coexist. Some educational theories challenge the notion of a curriculum that does not recognise this particular sociolinguistic situation, contending that in such instances the best interests of students are not served. Although vernacular literacy has been slowly acknowledged as a viable response to this challenge, its implementation has not been without significant problems.

The paper underscores the primacy of the role of education in looking after the best interests of the child and examines the following: the role of the language curriculum in effective direction of the education of the student, the difficult language realities of select Caribbean societies as they pertain to the general education of students and the moral dilemmas implicit in vernacularisation. It defines vernacularisation as the instrumentalisation of the vernacular for social development and in the context of this paper gives primary focus to education.

The theoretical position which undergirds this paper is two-fold. The Bakhtinian (Morris 1994)concepts of centralisation and decentralisation, of unification and disunification and the notion of markedness and the way in which it affects attitudes to language and to the use of language (Myers-Scotton's 1998).

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Winford James
Non-emphatic vs. emphatic morphemes in Tobagonian Grammar

Session 2

In Tobagonian Creole (TOB), certain grammatical morphemes and phrases behave in discourse in such a way as to suggest that their phonological structure plays a critical role in that behaviour. This paper examines morphemes in selected subsystems of TOB grammar (e.g., auxiliaries (AUX), negators (NEG), determiners (DET), and suffixes (SUF)), in an attempt to describe how tone (or pitch) and (expiratory) stress are related to their rhyme structure and how that relationship syntactically and semantically differentiates morphemes in these subsystems. It shows that some monosyllabic morphemes associate only with (L)ow tone, some only with (H)igh tone, and others with either, usually for morphemic contrast, but also depending on their location as suffixes in the syntax of the phrase or sentence. It also shows that non-monosyllabic (and non-monomorphemic) items have different tone patterns depending on their location in the phrase or sentence. More specifically, the paper demonstrates how tone, stress, rhyme structure, syntactic category, semantics, and syntax combine to organise morphemes in the subsystems, raising and attempting to answer a variety of questions relative to these subsystems.

After treatment of the AUX/NEG, DET, and SUF morphemes, the paper takes the opportunity to tabulate, without illustration, other monosyllabic morphemes that associate with either high or low tone, as well as other non-monosyllabic ones that have a variable tone pattern.

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Silvia Kouwenberg
The reference of bare nouns in Berbice Dutch

Session 1

Berbice Dutch (BD) has prenominal definite and indefinite articles. In addition, nouns may appear without an article, as bare nouns. The expectation is that such nouns do not have specific reference. Typical cases would include generics and nouns under the scope of negation. However, considering bare noun occurrences in BD texts, it turns out that there are quite a few cases which challenge that expectation. The texts contain numerous instances where bare nouns have unique or known referents. This raises the question how the specificity of these bare nouns compares with that of definite nouns. I will argue that a distinction can be made between different kinds of familiarity: the discourse-linked kind which the overt definite article signals, and a non-discourse-linked kind which is signalled by a null definite article.

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Glenda-Alicia Leung
Ragga Soca

Session 4

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Karen Mah-Chamberlain
"It Divide Up in Little Worlds": Dialogue and Discourse Analysis of Selected Works by Samuel Selvon
(Guest Presenter from Literatures in English – Postgraduate Seminar Presentation)

Session 4

This thesis researches the influence of the language of oral narratives, as represented in direct speech, on the language and structure of narration in six of Samuel Selvon's novels. The theoretical framework explores the relationships between three levels of dialogue – direct speech (between the characters), dialoguism (between the characters and the author), and discourse (between the author and society). The work of Mikhail Bakhtin influences this understanding of dialogue and supports the investigation of genres as specialised linguistic varieties operating in a communicative context. The corpus of oral narratives found in direct speech is analysed in order to determine the linguistic character of four genres – folk legends, "ballads", news reports and personal narratives. At least one of teach of these types of genres plays a major role in the structure or plot of *Those Who Eat the Cascadura*, *The Lonely Londoners*, *The Housing Lark*, *A Brighter Sun*, *Moses Ascending*, and *An Island Is a World*.
　　Throughout the study, the basic thematic definition of each of the four narrative genres identified above is expanded by a consideration of the linguistic features (phonology, lexicon and morphosyntax), rhetorical patterns (repetitions, ambiguities and formulas), narrative structures (use of narrative and evaluative elements), and social situations (participants and embedding) which characterise them. Narrative structure, as explored in Neal R. Norrick's work with conversational narrative, is also analysed. The linguistic analysis then provides a framework for discussing the impact of structure on meaning, particularly as it relates to the tensions between oral and scribal traditions found in the direct speech, characterisation and plot of the six novels.

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Ferne Regis
Discourse in Calypso: Jahaaji Blues reprimands Jahaaji Bhai

Session 4

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Kathryn Shields Brodber
Conflict Talk and Its Implications for Social (Dis)Integration in Jamaica

Session 1

In contemporary Jamaica, conflict is as much characteristic of public-formal verbal interaction, which is constantly overtly confrontational, as it is of interpersonal, domestic interaction which too often has consequences in physical violence. Conflict talk is a complex phenomenon, which may simply constitute the verbal essence of disagreement on the one hand, or a macho identity and cross-gender consequences for a posture of power and authority on the other. Language choice and patterns of discourse employed in the negotiation of conflict are culturally defined and conditioned, although there may be elements which are shared cross-culturally. This presentation will provide an outline of the study of conflict talk in Jamaica in which the researcher is presently engaged, and address the significance of the study in explaining and providing a solution to the social (dis)integration characterising life in Jamaica today.

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Valerie Youssef
'I go smoke jus now': The Child Linguist as a Social Being

Session 2

Children are charged with many things with regard to language and its acquisition, development and change, according to 'us' experts. They 'create' language—even without input (Bickerton 1981). Yet they are language 'historians' preserving it exactly as the caregiver mould (Labov 1989). They fuse two languages into one in the early stages (Vihman 1985); they also manage to separate them from the earliest stage (Lanza 1997). Someone must be confused and, for sure, it's us, not them!

My argument in this paper is that children can be all these things because, primarily, they are social beings, driven by a need to find a right fit with the sociocultural milieu in which they find themselves. Caribbean sociolinguistic complexes allows us to observe the search for a right fit readily because of the differing, juxtaposing and sometimes conflictual subcultures that exist among them. By tracing the development of future reference, specifically the use two children make of Trinidadian Creole preverbal marker *go* over a lengthy period of study of its early development, this search for a right fit is exemplified.

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Godfrey Steele
COMS 3099 – Language and Communication Panel
(Guest Presenters from Communication Studies – Undergraduate Seminar Presentations)

Session 4

Group 1
The Feminine Touch:
The evolution of 'Trinbagonian' women in soca music
with specific reference to verbal and nonverbal presentation from 1907s-present.

Women's issues of equality, inclusion and liberation have grown in significance over recent decades. This search for independence is evident in the increasing number of women present in the calypso/ soca artform. This study will be designed to examine the evolution of verbal and nonverbal communication and sexual explicitness in the performances of female soca artistes in Trinidad & Tobago from the 1970s to present. While many other researchers have conducted studies on women in calypso, their focus has been more on the lyrical content and less on evolution and performance. Through textual analysis, the group has decided to use a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches to analyse the music videos and video clips of performances of the three individual female Road March title holders. The results of the study will bring greater awareness of the female presence in soca music. It will also have great significance for other feminist researchers and inspire women to pursue their goals in the face of opposing forces of male dominance and an orthodox society.

Members Of Research Group:
Aleema Ali, Chriselle Charles, Marisa Deonarine, Shalini Gooray, Varuna Sookoo

Group 2
An investigation into the use of subliminal messages in print media advertising (newspapers)
in Trinidad & Tobago and their effect on consumer behaviour.

To date this research paper presented research on the use and types of subliminal messages in newspaper advertising and examined its effect on consumer behaviour. With this knowledge, the study demonstrated that advertising is an important factor which propelled consumers to desire or purchase a product. Some areas of inquiry covered in the literature review are definitions of subliminal messages and advertising, explanations of perception, ethics and its effect on consumer behaviour, debate on the use of subliminal messages and how nonverbal cues (imagery & sensory} and language devices influence consumer perception and choice. Moreover, this thesis focuses on the existence, types and usage of subliminal messages in the print advertising industry of Trinidad & Tobago and how consumers react to subliminal stimuli specifically those presented in the *Express*, *Newsday* and *Guardian* newspapers. As research progresses, researchers will determine the twelve most popular advertisements and a survey will be conducted to target the responses of the general public as well as, advertising practitioners.

Members of Research Group: Melissa Berkley, Amanda Best, Denisha Piper, Jannike Rennie, Keisha Stephen-Gittens, Zuwena Williams

Group 3

A comparative study of the language and communication techniques used in
the newspaper advertisements in the *Trinidad & Tobago Express* by TSTT/Bmobile
before competition in 2002 and after competition in 2006.

Advertising is an ancient form of communicating messages about products and services. Consumers are continuously bombarded with advertising messages in both the electronic and print media, all attempting to persuade as well as stand out from other competing advertisements. The pervasiveness of advertising makes it an interesting topic for study not neglecting the fact that corporate entities invest huge sums into advertising research and development. Consumers therefore have to be cognizant of the techniques and strategies utilised to persuade them, so they will be better informed when making decisions.

The emergence of Digicel as a competitor to TSTT/bmobile has evoked interest in the topic for three reasons. Firstly, reports in the local media alluded to tension between the two companies regarding the problem of interconnectivity and the erection of cell phone towers. The newsworthiness and the potential social impact made the topic an interesting phenomenon to investigate. Secondly many studies have investigated the effects of advertisements in print and electronic media on consumers. However, the researchers discovered resources relating to monopolies and advertising limited. This research will therefore add a new perspective to the field of advertising. Thirdly, TSTT (Telecommunications Services of Trinidad & Tobago) monopolised land line as well as cellular phone services up to 2005. Consequently, the inevitable adjustments undertaken by TSTT/bmobile to accommodate the competition have further added to the researchers' desire to unearth the language and communication techniques used by TSTT/Bmobile in the newspaper advertisements, particularly the *Express*. The *Express* was selected because of its widespread readership throughout Trinidad & Tobago.

Members of Research Group: Kendal Fontenelle, Petal Mayers, Judane Mc Donald, Fitz-Allan R. Peters

Group 4

Who wears the pants in your relationship?
A study of how women use language and communication strategies
to affect men's emotions as a means of demonstrating power

This study investigates gender interactions, but more specifically, the ways in which women use language and communication strategies to exert their power over men. Furthermore, it investigates how women are able to do this through subtle and less aggressive ways.

The members of this group are particularly focused on power in romantic relationships and the fact (according to much of the literature reviewed) that men are generally considered the more powerful sex. The aim however, is to show how women use calm and collected language and communication tactics to affect the emotions of their romantic partner and can thus be considered more powerful.

As a guiding force behind our investigation, the group has developed research questions that are key in directing our study and concisely narrowing our focus. We have also used various books and theories in research as a guide in this study. These guiding principles have equipped us with a significant amount of enlightening ideas and opinions with respect to male-female interaction. Many of the sources offer immense information that is crucial to our study.

The survey method will be used in our research; interviews and questionnaires will be used to collect the data. Both quantitative and qualitative information will be analyzed via the use of descriptive statistical data and the Likert measurement scale respectively. From the collected and analysed data, conclusions will be drawn using inferential methods. All of which will be discussed in further detail throughout the proposal.

Members of Research Group: Aruna Maharaj, Rolaine Naipaul, Khara Persad, Josann Ramlal

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